

Amendment
Serial No. 10/522,728
Attorney Docket No. 052040

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A massaging machine, comprising:

a chair body having a seat and a backrest;

an armrest provided to the side of said seat;

a tunnel-shaped support provided to stand from said armrest so as to enable the massagee's arm or hand placed on said armrest to be inserted therein; and

a massage air cell provided to the inner surface of said tunnel-shaped support which expands/contracts according to the supply/discharge of air,

wherein said tunnel-shaped support has an arch shape extending from side to side of said armrest such that the tunnel-shaped support strides from side to side over the massagee's arm or hand.

2. (Original) A massaging machine according to claim 1, wherein said tunnel-shaped support is open at both ends of the cross direction thereof, and the arm or hand can be inserted into the rear opening, and the fingertips can come out from the front opening.

3. (Original) A massaging machine according to claim 1, wherein said massage air cell is capable of pressing the arm or hand against said armrest by expanding.

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4. (Original) A massaging machine according to claim 1, wherein said armrest is provided with an acupressure element for performing acupressure to the arm or hand being pressed with said massage air cell.

5. (Original) A massaging machine according to claim 1, wherein said armrest is provided with a vibration generator for performing vibration massage to the arm or hand being pressed by said massage air cell.

6. (Original) A massaging machine according to claim 1, wherein said tunnel-shaped support has a tunnel-shaped external member, and an internal member provided inside said external member while retaining space between said external member;

said massage air cell is installed to said internal member; and

the space between said external member and said internal member is pipe space for installing a pipe for supplying air to said massage air cell.

7. (Original) A massaging machine according to claim 1, wherein said tunnel-shaped support is provided movably forward and backward.

8. (Original) A massaging machine according to claim 7, wherein said armrest moves backward in conjunction with the motion of said backrest reclining backward, and moves forward in conjunction with the motion of said backrest rising forward; and

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said tunnel-shaped support moves forward and backward according to the forward and backward movement of said armrest.

9. (Original) A massaging machine according to claim 1, wherein said massage air cell is disposed so as to press the palm or back of the hand placed on said armrest.

10. (Original) A massaging machine according to claim 1, wherein the length of the cross direction of said tunnel-shaped support is set to an extent such that only the anterior portion of the massagee's wrist is positioned therein; and said massage air cell is used for massaging the palm or back of the hand.

11. (Currently Amended) A chair-type massaging machine having an armrest comprising:

an air cell at the upper side of the armrest which expands/contracts according to the supply/discharge of air, and

a tunnel-shaped support provided to stand from said armrest so as to enable a massagee's arm or hand placed on said armrest to be inserted therein;

wherein said air cell is provided so as to press the massagee's arm or hand placed on said armrest against said armrest by expanding downward, and

wherein said tunnel-shaped support has an arch shape extending from side to side of said armrest such that the tunnel-shaped support strides from side to side over the massagee's arm or hand.

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12. (Currently Amended) An arm and hand massager to be used upon being mounted on the armrest of a chair, comprising:

a tunnel-shaped support mounted on said armrest so as to enable the massagee's arm or hand placed on said armrest to be inserted therein; and

an air cell provided to the inner surface of said tunnel-shaped support for massaging the arm or hand by expanding/contracting,

wherein said tunnel-shaped support has an arch shape extending from side to side of said armrest such that the tunnel-shaped support strides from side to side over the massagee's arm or hand.

13. (Currently Amended) A massaging method, comprising:

pressing [[the]] a massagee's arm or hand, placed on an armrest of a chair-type massaging machine having said armrest, against said armrest with an air cell which ~~expands/contracts~~ expands/contracts according to [[the]] a supply/discharge of air,

wherein said air cell is provided on an inner surface of a tunnel-shaped support having an arch shape extending from side to side of the armrest such that said tunnel-shaped support strides over the massagee's arm or hand from side to side.

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14. (New) A massaging machine according to claim 1, wherein said massage air cell is configured to press the massagee's arm or hand, placed on said armrest, against said armrest from both sides thereof by expanding.

15. (New) A massaging machine according to claim 1, wherein said massage air cell includes an outer air cell and an inner air cell,

wherein said outer air cell is positioned at a pinky finger side of the massagee's arm or hand placed on said armrest, and

wherein said inner air cell is positioned at a thumb side of the massagee's arm or hand.

16. (New) A massaging machine according to claim 1, wherein said massage air cell has a lower portion mounted to an inner side surface of the tunnel-shaped support and a freely expandable upper portion.

17. (New) A massaging machine according to claim 1, further comprising:

a vibration generator provided to said armrest for giving, via an acupressure element, a vibration massage to the massagee's arm or hand placed on said armrest; and

a second air cell for pressing said vibration generator upward by expanding.

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18. (New) A massaging machine according to claim 1, wherein said tunnel-shaped support is positioned backward of the front end of said armrest, and the front end of the upper face of said armrest has a downward inclined face.

19. (New) A massaging machine according to claim 1, wherein said tunnel-shaped support includes left and right side face portions at both sides in the width direction of said armrest and extending upward of said armrest and an upper face portion connecting said left and right side face portions above said armrests, and

wherein said left and right side face portions and said upper face portion form a continuous arc shape.